

SENATE RESOLUTION 20

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to congratulate The University of Memphis Rifle Team on its outstanding performance in the school's first appearance at the NCAA National Rifle Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful collegiate athletic teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors for this State; and

WHEREAS, The University of Memphis Tigers rifle team is well on its way to becoming renowned as a bastion of extraordinary marksmanship and is already famous as the first rifle team in The University of Memphis's history to qualify to participate in the NCAA Men's and Women's Rifle National Championship, which was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado in 2005; and

WHEREAS, with expert guidance from Head Coach Butch Woolbright, The University of Memphis rifle team achieved its highest level of success ever during the 2004-2005 season; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers placed fourth at the Great American Rifle Conference Championship in Oxford, Mississippi, earning them a ticket to the 26th Annual NCAA Men's and Women's National Rifle Championship in the Air Rifle competition; and

WHEREAS, through the dedication and hard work of the team members, this newly emerging powerhouse entered the National Championship as the sixth seed, but impressively fired their way to finish in a commendable fourth place overall with a score of 2329; and

WHEREAS, in a relatively brief span of time, The University of Memphis rifle team has evolved into a skilled and competitive team with which to be reckoned; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding All-American team member Beth Tidmore was the shining star of The University of Memphis rifle team as the only individual qualifier for the Air Rifle competition. Utilizing her sharp-shooting skills, she set a new NCAA standard with a score of 694.2, and took home the coveted individual National Championship in the Air Rifle division; and

WHEREAS, teammates Krissey Bahnsen, Katie Benjamin, and Brian Phillips also performed remarkably well and greatly added to the overall success of this fast advancing rifle team; and

WHEREAS, the rifle team of The University of Memphis for the 2004-2005 season have proven themselves to be both exceptional marksmen and athletes, and have modeled a tenacious work ethic and winning attitude for future rifle teams to emulate; and

WHEREAS, the members of the rifle team at The University of Memphis epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character in every facet of their daily lives; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young people not only made possible a stellar season, but also bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud The University of Memphis rifle team for setting a new standard as the first rifle team in the school's history to compete in the Men's and Women's NCAA National Rifle Championship and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate The University of Memphis rifle team on their individual and collective resolve and their extraordinary performance at the 2005 NCAA National Rifle Championship.

BE IT FUTHER RESLVED, that we commend and congratulate Beth Tidmore on setting a new NCAA standard in winning the individual NCAA National Championship in Air Rifle competition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

